

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00227 171739Z
ACTION ARA-14

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-----032420 180217Z /63
R 171446Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6664
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), XK, ES
N
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0174

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR
SECRETARY TODMAN'S MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO:

QTE I RECALL WITH PLEASURE OUR MEETING IN WASHINGTON LAST
SEPTEMBER. WE TALKED THEN ABOUT THE NEEDS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IN EL SALVADOR. I KNOW OF YOUR GREAT INTEREST IN THE
PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG AND
VITAL HUMAN RESOURCES ELEMENT FOR THAT DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE PRO-
VIDED OUR HELP OVER THE YEARS NOT ONLY TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH
OF THE POPULATION BUT TO BRING ABOUT BETTER PLANNING WITHIN
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FAMILY TO REDUCE THE NAURAL POPULATION
GROWTH. THERE ARE FEW PLACES IN THE WORLD THAT WE SEE THIS
PROBLEM SO CRITICAL AS
EL SALVADOR, WHERE THE PRESSURES
OF RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY OF LAND IS SO IMPORTANT A FACTOR. I
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COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR, AND ESPECIALLY YOU,
DR. ASTACIO, FOR THE DYNAMIC EFFORT ALREADY MADE. WE HOPE
TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OUR ASSISTANCE IN THESE PROGRAMS.

QTE IN THIS REGARD, I KNOW YOU ARE AWARE OF THE NEW
REQUIREMENT UNDER US LAW FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A
REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COUNTRIES

RECEIVING ECONOMIC AS WELL AS SECURITY ASSISTANCE. THE REPORT ON EL SALVADOR HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED (GIVE HIM COPY IF AVAILABLE) AND IT MAY WELL BECOME CONTROVERSIAL IN VIEW OF REPORTS REACHING CONGRESSMEN, WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE, OF CONTINUED OPPRESSION ESPECIALLY OF THE CHURCH. SUCH DEVELOPMENTS COULD WELL PREJUDICE US ASSISTANCE TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN EL SALVADOR. I REPEAT A REQUEST I JUST MADE TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT HELP IN BRINGING OUT THE FACTS IN CASES ALLEGING PRESENT OR PAST VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

QTE I KNOW YOU ARE ALSO PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF YOUR SECURITY FORCES, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THEIR TREATMENT OF DETAINED PERSONS. WE AGREE THAT THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO BRING ABOUT REQUIRES AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO FIND WAYS TO HELP ON YOUR SPECIFIC REQUEST MADE TO MS. DERIAN FOR ADVISORY SERVICES TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL TV PROGRAMS FOR SECURITY FORCES. OUR PROBLEM IS OUR OWN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH PROHIBITS FUNDS UNDER THAT LEGISLATION FROM BEING USED FOR POLICE PROGRAMS.

QTE I RECOGNIZE ALSO YOUR LEADERSHIP IN TRYING TO DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE BASIS IN LAW FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND ORDER AND FOR DEALING WITH YOUR PROBLEMS OF TERRORISM, WITHOUT HAVING TO USE EXTRA-LEGAL MEANS WHICH VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS. I UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW LAW ON PROTECTION OF PUBLIC ORDER HAS COME IN FOR CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM AS OPENING THE WAY FOR GREATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPRESSION. I ASSUME THAT CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW WHERE IMPERFECTIONS EXIST OR THERE IS CONTRADICTION WITH YOUR OWN CONSTITUTION OR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. IN ANY EVENT THE TEST OF THE LAW WILL BE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WE TRUST IT WILL NOT BE APPLIED IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BUT TO REINFORCE A SYSTEM OF RULE OF LAW. UNQTE.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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